



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20380-0001

MCO 7042.6B  
FDB-48/dp  
3 Aug 1987

MARINE CORPS ORDER 7042.6B

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps  
To: Distribution List

Subj: Award of Trophies and Similar Devices in Recognition of  
Accomplishments

Ref: (a) SECNAVINST 3590.4A  
(b) MCO P1100.71A (MPPM)  
(c) MCO 4001.2  
(d) SECNAVINST 7042.7G (NOTAL)  
(e) CMC ltr MR/CEM/hp 5050/1 of 24 Nov 1982 (NOTAL)

1. Purpose. To establish Marine Corps policy for awarding trophies and similar devices to individuals and units for excellence in accomplishments and competitions contributing to the effectiveness of military missions and operations.

2. Cancellation. MCO 7042.6A.

3. Background

a. 10 U.S.C. Section 1125, authorized the Secretary of Defense to use appropriated funds to purchase medals, trophies, badges, and similar devices for award to members, units, or agencies of an Armed Force for excellence in accomplishments or competition related to that Armed Force, and provide badges or buttons in recognition of special service, good conduct, and discharge under conditions other than dishonorable. The Secretary of Defense authorized the Secretaries of the Military Departments to redelegate this authority to senior service commanders. The Secretary of the Navy, by reference (a), authorized Marine Corps general officers in command to approve the use of appropriated funds for these purposes and set forth policies concerning the program.

b. Since the publication of reference (a), requests have been received at this Headquarters for authority to expend locally available operation and maintenance funds to purchase awards. To date, these requests have been considered on their individual merits. A requirement exists to maintain a definitive policy on the use of appropriated funds to purchase awards. This policy does not preclude a commander from recognizing excellence in that command but applies only to the authority to purchase awards with appropriated funds.

3 Aug 1987

c. Reference (b) provides specific guidance for the awards program conducted for recruiting activities. The recruiting awards program, for outstanding recruiting performance in conjunction with quality production, is in addition to the awards program provided under the provisions of this Order. In a fiscal year, it is feasible that an individual Marine, through outstanding performance, could receive an award under the provisions of this Order and also under the recruiting awards program.

#### 4. Policy

a. The commander will determine those individuals and subordinate units that excel in designated areas of competition related to the mission of that command. Although this policy is not intended to limit the commander in the designation of award areas, the following is a sample list of competition categories:

- (1) Marine of the Month; Quarter; Year.
- (2) High Rifle Marksman of the Quarter; Year.
- (3) High Pistol Marksman of the Quarter; Year.
- (4) Highest Physical Fitness Test Score for the Year.
- (5) Top Military Unit; i.e., Best Rifle Company, Outstanding Security Guard Company.
- (6) Honor Graduate of NCO School.

b. The accomplishments and award categories must be of such a nature that they are above and beyond that expected of an individual or unit in the normal performance of duty. These awards should also relate to the mission of the activity presenting the award. Other general guidelines that must be followed when establishing a command awards program include:

- (1) Establishing, announcing, and publicizing the program to ensure maximum participation.
- (2) Contribution to command effectiveness and mission accomplishment.

c. Awards may be made on a one-time basis in those instances where the accomplishment is unique, clearly contributes to increased effectiveness or efficiency, and is not covered by the command awards program.

3 Aug 1987

d. Appropriated funds may be used to purchase memento items such as trophies, medals, badges, swords, and plaques in recognition of those accomplishments designated by the commander for special recognition.

e. Items not considered mementos (i.e., useful in nature) such as jogging suits, shoes, watches, etc., should not be awarded under the provisions of this Order. Reference (c) specifically prohibits cash awards for recognition of individual accomplishments.

f. Cash prizes awarded under the Incentive Awards Program, and those awards made in connection with sports and welfare activities, are specifically excluded from the provisions of this Order.

g. Coordination will be accomplished in the selection process to prevent one individual or unit from receiving two awards for an achievement when other candidates are equally qualified.

h. Awards for social affairs in honor of a particular individual or purchase of memento-type items such as plaques, tour books, etc., for guests of the command, including entertainers, civilian dignitaries, and foreign and U.S. military personnel, are prohibited, except as provided in reference (d).

i. See reference (c) for guidance concerning gifts from persons, institutions, or corporations outside the Marine Corps given in recognition of individual accomplishments.

5. Funding. Cost of awards enumerated in paragraph 4d will be funded under the appropriate locally available operations and maintenance funds; i.e., O&MMC for active forces and O&MMCR for reserve forces.

#### 6. Action

a. General officers in command are authorized to approve the use of appropriated funds for awards subject to the policy and limitations noted herein. Award of trophies and similar devices in recognition of Marine Corps district recruiting accomplishments is established by reference (b) (as amended by reference (e)).

b. All commanding officers and officers in charge will submit their request for the use of appropriated funds via their administrative chain of command for approval at the first level where there is a Marine Corps general officer command. Requests addressed to this Headquarters will be directed to the general officer exercising staff cognizance of the activity, if any. If there is no general officer exercising staff cognizance or if the identity is unknown, address the inquiry to CMC (FDB).

MCO 7042.6B  
3 Aug 1987

7. Reserve Applicability. This Order is applicable to the  
Marine Corps Reserve.

  
E. T. COMSTOCK  
Fiscal Director of the  
Marine Corps

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